

Thousand Oaks Little League Field Maintenance Guidelines

It is league policy that managers and coaches are ultimately responsible for the field condition and care, and fields must be left in a "ready to play" condition. Please make yourself familiar with the following guidelines. It is also the managers/coaches responsibility to make sure his field care staff is educated on the proper techniques for field prep.

Field Maintenance Guidelines and Rules

Next to our players and volunteers, our fields are our most valuable asset. We take great pride in having the nicest playing surfaces period! By following these guidelines you are ensuring that your children will continue to have quality well maintained fields to play baseball on and in addition you are helping to keep fees low. When doing Field Maintenance you should always leave the fields in better condition than you found them. Done properly, allow for 20-30 minutes for proper field care. Field maintenance is one of the largest single expenses in baseball. By following these basic guidelines, you will help ensure the quality and playability of your fields...

Field Maintenance

1. Team Managers should prepare a list and assign parents to groom the field and bullpens after every game and practice. Schedule two people per practice or game. The infields should be dragged, taking care not to drag the dirt into the bordering grass
2. Bases should be removed and base plugs put in place prior to dragging. If it is the end of the day, last game or practice the bases are to be put in the equipment shed and the base plugs left in place.
3. The base paths should be raked in the same direction as the path (NOT PERPENDICULAR TO THE BASE PATH). If you drag the baselines please take care to keep dirt out of the grass! In time, this elevated dirt builds up and forms lips where the grass meets the dirt. These lips act as launching ramps for infield ground balls. Need we say more?
4. The teams with the last game on each Saturday need to take the time and "wash" the dirt/infield mix out of the edges of the infield grass.
5. Fill in and pound down any holes around the pitcher's mound or home plate. Use one of the "field tamps" (massive weights on a stick), this is the job they are designed for. Do not bring any dirt from anywhere else to the pitcher's mound in either the infield or the bullpens or to home plate on the fields. The dirt we use in these areas is special dirt designed to compact and hold together. Please don't forget to groom the pitcher's mounds in the bullpens. Always rake the dirt up the mound towards the rubber, do not pull dirt down towards the grass.
6. Water needs to be sprayed on the mound, batters box and infield dirt between games. Watering between games is to control dust and promote the proper playing surface.
7. IMPORTANT: After the last game of the day, water the infield dirt sufficiently based on the climate. We need to put enough water on the infield dirt to penetrate 3-4 inches or the field will become very hard, This should take 15-30 minutes depending on the climate.
8. If you are the last Coach or Manager to leave the fields or no other team has shown up for their game or practice then remove the bases and lock the equipment shed before leaving the fields.
9. The team(s) with the last game/practice of the day has the responsibility of emptying the trash cans for their respective fields.

Field Etiquette

1. Don't warm up or walk on the infield grass unnecessarily.
2. Never throw batting practice from the infield grass without throwing from a mat. If you bring a screen out onto the field, remove it from the grass when you are finished.
3. Store rolled up tarps off the playing surface
4. Never hit balls into the fences.
5. Always look after our fields and baseball complex. If you see someone abusing our facility, ask him to stop or seek out someone that will.
6. If you notice a broken sprinkler or leaking pipe please call Field Manager or your Division VP, your efforts will save the league money. By taking time out of your busy schedule to make the call, this will ultimately benefit you by the league not having to increase fees.

Thank you for your efforts!

MANAGER'S SIGNATURE

DATE

MANAGER'S PRINTED NAME